GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4711
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
EXOBIOLOGY PROJECTS IN SPACE
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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Space Commission is considering launching a few projects onexobiology including protein synthesis, aerobic cell cultivation and efficacy of yogic exercises to be taken at the International Space Station;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been worked out in this regard; and

(c) if so, details thereof and time by which these are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Indian Space Research Organisation has initiated preliminary studies in this regard.

(b) Preliminary proposals from scientists from national laboratories/ universities have been received by Indian Space Research Organisation and are under evaluation.

(c) - The proposal on protein synthesis experiment aims to grow Metallothionein proteins to get better insights and understanding of their role in the biological systems.

- The experimental proposal on aerobic cell cultivation aims to study the method of improving the productivity in biological reaction in microgravity conditions.

- The proposal on conduct of yogic exercises in space is to study the efficacy of such exercises to mitigate physiological effects due to microgravity.

- The experiments on space station are subject to availability of flight opportunities after the International Space Station becomes operational in 2005-2006. The time-frame by which Indianexperiments on International Space Station will be conducted is yetto be worked out, as this would require cooperative agreement with international participants of International Space Station.